



Subject:	Consultation Response: Planning Application for Burial Land Development at Dundrod
Date:	11 th August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services.
Contact Officer:	Seamus McBride, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number. ☐	
1. Information relating to any individual. 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information). 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter. 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction. 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime.	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report / Summary of Main Issues.
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1.1	To advise the Members that Belfast City Council has been formally consulted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Planning Department in respect of planning application LA05/2025/0372/F for burial land development at Dundrod.
2.0	Recommendation.
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the content of the draft consultation response, which provides factual information only and does not convey a position of support or objection.
3.0	Main Report.
3.1	Since 1995, Belfast City Council (BCC) has navigated significant challenges in securing adequate burial land. Current projections indicate that the Council has approximately 18.5 years of burial provision remaining, primarily situated at Roselawn.
3.2	In 2019, the Council issued a formal Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify lands suitable for cemetery development. The Dundrod site was one of two locations shortlisted for further consideration. A planning application has now been submitted for this site, and BCC has been invited to provide a consultation response.
	Key Issues
3.3	Strategic Need: The 2015 Review of Burial Policy identified a critical need for additional capacity, particularly to serve the North and West of the city. The Dundrod site represents a viable option to address this localized shortage.
3.4	Regional Role: Data from 2023–2026 confirms that BCC remains a sub-regional hub for bereavement services. Despite a slight decline in total burial volumes, non-resident burials consistently account for approximately 25% of total activity.
3.5	Cremation Trends: While cremation is a significant factor in the Belfast service area (46%), the wider Northern Ireland regional rate for 2025 stands at 25.09%. This demonstrates that traditional burial remains the preferred choice for the majority of the population, necessitating the continued search for land.
3.6	Site Status: The Dundrod site remains one of two active sites under consideration by BCC. Supporting this planning application is consistent with previous Council decisions to explore land opportunities outside the immediate BCC boundary to meet statutory duties.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications.</u>
3.7	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this consultation response. However, the development of new burial land remains a key component of the Council's long-term capital programme and strategic planning.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	BCC Consultation response.